

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, WIPO, EFIN

SUBJ: SEPTEMBER 15 GENEVA GROUP MEETING, WIPO-SWISS COMPLAINT
ABOUT NEW BUILDING COSTS AND ADVANCES, PROPOSAL ESTABLISH
GENEVA GROUP FOR WIPO

1. SWISS REPRESENTATIVE AT SEPTEMBER 15 GENEVA GROUP MEETING
ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS HAVING TWO PROBLEMS WITH
WIPO THAT HE WISHED TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF GROUP. SWISS GAVE CREDIT TO WIPO TO FINANCE THEIR
NEW BUILDING. WIPO HAS NOW INFORMED THEM THAT THEY WOULD
NEED 11 MILLION SWF MORE THAN THEY PREDICTED FOR THE BUILDING.
SWISS BELIEVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS NEEDED BECAUSE OF
HIGHER BUILDING COSTS THAN EXPECTED AND BECAUSE WIPO PROBABLY
ADDED NEW ELEMENTS TO BUILDING AFTER PLANS SUBMITTED TO SWISS.
SWISS NOW EXAMINING MATTER AND WILL INFORM GENEVA GROUP
FURTHER. THEY ALSO MAY RAISE IT AT WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING STARTING SEPTEMBER 27.

2. SWISS REP ALSO NOTED THAT SWITZERLAND ADVANCES
CREDITS TO WIPO EVERY YEAR TO COVER ORGANIZATION'S EX-
PENSES PENDING COLLECTION OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS (WHICH
ARE NOT DUE UNTIL END OF YEAR FOR WHICH THEY ARE ASSESSED)
AND TO COVER UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS. WIPO GETS
ABOUT A MILLION SWF A YEAR, INTEREST FREE, FOR THIS
PURPOSE AND USUALLY REPAYS IT AFTER SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS.
BECAUSE OF CHANGING FINANCIAL SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND,
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SWISS BELIEVE THEY MUST NOW DEMAND INTEREST ON A COMMER-

CIAL BASIS FOR THESE ADVANCES. THEY NOTE THEIR MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS TO RAISE THIS MONEY ON CAPITAL MARKETS. SWISS RAISED MATTER AT 1975 WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPEALED TO THEM NOT TO DEMAND INTEREST. IN SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH WIPO, WIPO CONTINUES TO RESIST SWISS DEMANDS FOR INTEREST PAYMENTS, AND SO SWISS INTEND TO RAISE MATTER AGAIN AT FORTHCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. AMOUNTS IN QUESTION REPRESENT 20 TO 30 THOUSAND SWF A YEAR.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH SWISS REP, WE ASKED WHAT WAS THEIR POSITION IN VIEW OF WIPO PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN DOCUMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING THAT THE ORGANIZATION OVER A SIX-YEAR PERIOD ESTABLISH A WORKING CAPITAL FUND AND MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. SWISS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ADVANCES TO WIPO WILL DIMINISH OVER THE TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT THEY STILL BELIEVE THAT INTEREST SHOULD BE PAID ON THOSE ADVANCES.

4. CANADIAN MISSION NOTED THAT THERE WAS NOT A GENEVA GROUP FOR WIPO AND PROPOSED THAT ONE BE ESTABLISHED GIVEN EXPECTED BUDGET INCREASES. THEY ASKED THAT GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS INFORM CO-CHAIRMEN IF THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, AS THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME TO DISCUSS IT AT THE MEETING. IF THERE IS A POSITIVE RESPONSE, THEN CO-CHAIRMEN WERE ASKED TO CALL A WIPO GENEVA GROUP MEETING JUST BEFORE OR IN THE EARLY PART OF THE WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. CATTO

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